IYIR RESEARCH ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

The INFOSEC Year in Review (IYIR) database has been used since 1998 to collect and organize information security news reports for use in the INFOSEC UPDATE courses taught by Prof. M. E. Kabay, PhD, CISSP of Norwich University. The database of abstracts, keywords, references and classification codes is published on the Web for free access by researchers, teachers, students and practitioners around the world.

Research assistants need to convert abstracts by eliminating hard carriage returns, pasting the text into the abstract field, adding a note about the exact source, adding key words in a keyword field to help locate items that may apply to many topics in IA, and assigning a classification code from a list of topics in the database for the main relevance of the article. Finally, where there is a link (URL) to an original article online for the abstract, the volunteer should find the article and copy and paste the original text into a text field in the database. Thus for material with existing abstracts, the volunteer's major intellectual contribution is to select which abstracts will be included, generate the keywords, and apply the classification code.

See http://www2.norwich.edu/iyir/ra_sample.pdf for a sample of original material and resulting IYIR versions to see how the process works.

In addition, there are some sources such as the RISKS FORUM DIGEST which require more work, since they do not have abstracts. Here, the volunteer typically has to write a one-paragraph abstract that summarizes the key information from what may be a much longer item. The original item is also pasted into the text field. Sometimes there are follow-up articles which can be integrated into the text field and contribute to the overall abstract of the issue.

Research assistants work under the supervision of a project leader. Since the departure of the long-standing project leader, Karthik Raman, after he graduated as 2006 Class Valedictorian, we need a new leader!

Please contact Prof Kabay by e-mail < mailto:mekabay@gmail.com > to apply for these positions.